

### **REMARKS**

Claims 1-20 are pending in the present application. Claim 1 has been amended and new claims 4-20 have been added.

The specification has been amended to correct several typographical errors. Applicant has shown the deletions in the specification with brackets as the typographical errors include word with strikethroughs and are all three letters or less. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 USC §103 as being obvious over US Patent Number 5148897 (*Vanroye*) in view of Patent Number 6640541 (*Winkelmann*).

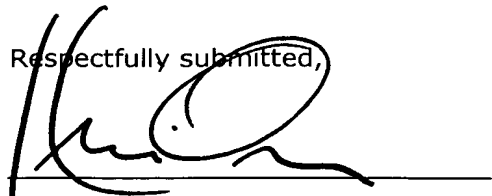
Claim 1 is a shock absorber with numerous limitations including an intermediate silicon carbon layer disposed between the outer peripheral surface of the slide member and the amorphous hard carbon layer. *Vanroye* and *Winkelmann*, alone or in combination, do not teach a shock absorber with all the limitations of claim 1. *Vanroye* and *Winkelmann*, alone or in combination, do not teach the shock absorber of claim 1 including a polytetrafluorethylene coating on a guide bush and an amorphous hard carbon layer on an outer peripheral surface of the slide member. *Winkelmann* discloses replacing the polytetrafluorethylene layer with an amorphous carbon layer, but does not teach or suggest a shock absorber with both a polytetrafluorethylene layer and an amorphous hard carbon layer. Further, *Vanroye* and *Winkelmann*, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest a shock absorber with all the limitations of claim 1 including an intermediate silicon carbon layer between the amorphous hard carbon layer and the outer peripheral surface of the slide member. Thus, the prior art of record does not teach or suggest the shock absorber of claim 1 and it is patentable. Claims 2-20 depend, directly or indirectly from claim 1 and thus are patentable.

### **CONCLUSION**

Applicant asserts that all of the objections have been obviated and, therefore now respectfully requests withdrawal of the objections, and allowance of the application.

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Respectfully submitted,

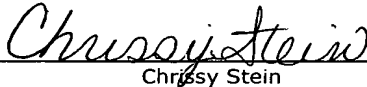


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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

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